

Amendment and Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-45. (cancelled)

Claim 46. (currently amended) A recombinant construct comprising a promoter operably linked to a DNA sequence which, when expressed in soybean, produces an RNA having:

- (a) homology to at least one target mRNA expressed in soybean, and
- (b) two fully complementary RNA regions which do not share sequence identity with any endogenous RNA in soybean and which are transcribed from SEQ ID NO:13, comprising at least nucleotides 7-36 and 82-111 or 7-36, 44-73, 82-111 and 119-148 of SEQ ID NO: 13, and which are in proximity to a sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA in (a), wherein the recombinant construct, when expressed in soybean reduces expression of the target mRNA or any endogenous mRNA that has at least 80% sequence identity with a sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA in (a) based on the Clustal method of alignment.

Claim 47. (currently amended) A recombinant construct comprising a promoter operably linked to a DNA sequence which, when expressed in soybean, produces an RNA having:

- (a) homology to at least one target mRNA expressed in soybean,
- (b) an RNA region which does not share sequence identity with any endogenous RNA in soybean and which is, transcribed from SEQ ID NO:13, comprising at least nucleotides 7-36 or 7-36 and 44-73 and is located 5' to a sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA in (a), and
- (c) the reverse complement of (b), comprising at least nucleotides 82-111 or 82-111 and 119-148 and is located 3' to a sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA in (a), further wherein the recombinant construct expressed by the host reduces the expression of the target mRNA or any endogenous mRNA that has at least 80% sequence identity with a sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA described in (a) based on the Clustal method of alignment.

Claim 48. (currently amended) A recombinant construct comprising a promoter operably linked to a DNA sequence which, when expressed in soybean, produces an RNA having:

- (a) homology to at least one target mRNA expressed in soybean, and
- (b) two fully complementary RNA regions which do not share sequence identity with any endogenous RNA in soybean and which are, transcribed from SEQ ID NO:13 and which are in proximity to a sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA in (a), wherein said sequence is introduced into the NotI site of SEQ ID NO:13 and wherein the recombinant construct, when expressed in soybean reduces expression of the target mRNA or any endogenous mRNA that has at least 80% sequence identity with a sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA in a) based on the Clustal method of alignment.

Claim 49. (previously presented) A method for reducing expression of a target mRNA or any endogenous mRNA that has at least 80% sequence identity with a sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA homologous to the target mRNA expressed in soybean based on the Clustal method of alignment, the method comprising:

- (a) transforming soybean with any of the recombinant constructs of Claims 46-47; and
- (b) selecting soybean which have reduced expression of the target mRNA or any endogenous mRNA that has at least 80% sequence identity with a sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA homologous to the target mRNA based on the Clustal method of alignment.

Claim 50. (currently amended) An RNA comprising:

- (a) homology to at least one target mRNA expressed in soybean, and
- (b) two fully complementary RNA regions which do not share sequence identity with any endogenous RNA in soybean and which are transcribed from SEQ ID NO:13, comprising at least nucleotides 7-36 and 82-111 or 7-36, 44-73, 82-111 and 119-148 of SEQ ID NO: 13, and which are in proximity to a sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA in (a), wherein the RNA in (a) and (b), when introduced into soybean, reduces the expression of the target mRNA or any endogenous mRNA that has at least 80% sequence identity with the sequence

homologous to all or part of the RNA in (a) based on the Clustal method of alignment.

Claim 51. (currently amended) An RNA comprising:

- (a) homology to at least one target mRNA expressed in soybean,
- (b) an RNA region which does not share sequence identity with any endogenous RNA in soybean and which is, transcribed from SEQ ID NO:13, comprising at least nucleotides 7-36 or 7-36 and 44-73 and is located 5' to a sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA in (a), and
- (c) the reverse complement of (b), comprising at least nucleotides 82-111 or 82-111 and 119-148 and is located 3' to a sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA in (a), wherein the RNA in (a) and (b), when introduced into the host, reduces the expression of the target mRNA or any endogenous mRNA that has at least 80% sequence identity with the sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA in (a) based on the Clustal method of alignment.

Claim 52. (previously presented) A method for reducing expression of a target mRNA or any endogenous mRNA that has at least 80% sequence identity with the sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA homologous to the target mRNA, expressed in soybean based on the Clustal method of alignment, the method comprising:

- (a) introducing into soybean any of the RNA of Claims 50-51; and
- (b) selecting soybeans which have reduced expression of the target mRNA or any endogenous mRNA that has at least 80% sequence identity with the sequence homologous to all or part of the RNA homologous to the target mRNA based on the Clustal method of alignment.